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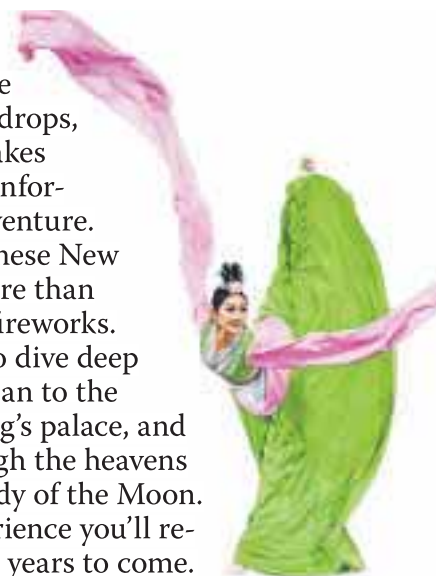
from the Chinese zodiac, 2016 is the Year of the Monkey. Monkeys are seen as playful, clever, curious—and a little mischievous, too! And that perfectly describes the most famous monkey of all, Sun Wukong, the Monkey King.

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PAUL SUSPENDS CAMPAIGN

1 Republican Rand Paul suspended his presidential bid Wednesday after his small-government campaign failed to gain traction with voters. The senator from Kentucky was the second Republican candidate, behind former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, to drop out of the race since Monday's night's Iowa caucuses. That contest launched the parties' process to nominate candidates for the November election. **REUTERS**

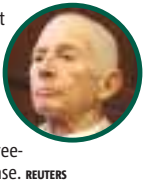


SOMALIA PLANE BLAST

2 Investigators believe a bomb probably caused the onboard explosion that forced an Airbus A321 to return to the Somali capital of Mogadishu for an emergency landing this week, U.S. government sources said Wednesday. One man was killed by the blast Tuesday on the Daallo Airlines plane, officials said. Local authorities north of Mogadishu said the body of a man, believed to have been sucked out through the hole in the fuselage made by the blast, was found in their area. **REUTERS**

GUILTY PLEA GUN CHARGE

3 Real estate heir and murder suspect Robert Durst pleaded guilty to a federal gun charge in New Orleans on Wednesday, setting the stage for his return to California to face charges in the 2000 death of a longtime friend. Durst, 72, could be sentenced to seven years and one month in prison under his plea agreement, followed by three years of supervised release. **REUTERS**



7

THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW

FOG AND RAIN

7 A man walks on the deck of the Staten Island Ferry as Manhattan is shrouded by fog and rain on Wednesday in New York City. Following a historic blizzard nine days ago, New York City and much of the East Coast is experiencing unseasonably warm and wet weather.



ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

NY ESCAPEE GETS MAX

4 A convicted killer whose daring escape last year from an upstate New York prison triggered a massive three-week manhunt received a maximum sentence on Wednesday, after apologizing in court for his actions. David Sweat pleaded guilty to two counts of escape and one of promoting prison contraband in November, five months after he was shot and captured about two miles from the Canadian border. Sweat and fellow inmate Richard Matt broke out of the maximum-security Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora on June 6. **REUTERS**

FLINT WATER VICTIMS

5 A group of academics and activists Wednesday called on Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to establish a compensation fund for victims of Flint's lead-contaminated drinking water, with one member of the group proposing the state set aside at least \$1 billion. The group of 200 professors and advocates, which calls itself the Experts of Color Network, said in a letter to Snyder the fund would pay for claims, health screenings and treatment for those in Flint affected by the crisis. **REUTERS**

NO SUBWAY SLEEPERS

6 Even if your eyelids are feeling way too heavy after a long day, authorities are warning New Yorkers to stay awake while on the subway. Police Commissioner Bill Bratton announced that the NYPD will be adding more police officers to subway patrols in hopes of stopping crimes from happening. These officers will wake up any straphangers who are taking a nap. **ANGY ALTAMIRANO**



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Baby girl wardrobe GEMMA JAMES, MOMSHOOD

Mom starts swap plan for kids' clothes

"The golden rule is only list what you want to receive," said founder Gemma James.



ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Children grow every day but unfortunately their clothes never seem to catch up, so one New York City mom believes she has the answer to help out parents who are always on the move.

Gemma James is the mind behind Momshood, an online children's clothes swap service, which started out of James' own frustration of not knowing what to do with her son's old clothes and also not wanting to throw them out.

Working as a real estate consultant, the Bronx resident said once she had her son—who is now a little over a year old—she realized how hard it was being a mom while working full time.

She had less time to get things done, and she wanted to find an easier way—without having to spend too much.

When it came to her son's clothes, she tried to look for stores where she could swap or donate the old clothes, but she said she was always met with more questions than solutions.

"I was continuously frustrated that there wasn't an easier way to do things," James said.

"Everything was complicated. I want to give a whole bag and get a whole bag."

Out of the frustration, Momshood was created as a new-moms parenting blog where James could communicate with other parents.

However, after speaking with other moms, the idea came to create a service that would allow parents to swap clothes that their children have either outgrown or never used and moms could also swap out their maternity clothes.

The original concept of the service was meant to reach mothers in New York City, because as a city mom James felt it was a service many could find helpful. However, dealing only online and via mail, moms from all over are welcome to join.

"It resonates for New York moms because we are busy, and we don't have a lot of space," James said. "It resonates with city living but it's applicable to other places."

Along with helping parents out, James added that through the swapping service they will also be able to help out the environment by

preventing the unused clothes from ending up in landfills.

In the United States, 85 percent of clothes end up in landfills—with about 10.5 million tons of clothes a year, according to James.

To use the service, parents sign up at momshood.com to receive free shipping boxes. Once they receive the boxes, parents gather the clothes and sort them by size, gender and season.

When looking to claim a box, parents search by size, gender and season. Moms can also search for maternity wear. Users just then pay a shipping fee and admin fee, and wait for their box to arrive.

"You have to offer one up to get one," James said.

All donated clothes must be in good condition, with no stains, holes or tears. There is a system that will allow parents to reviews others they have swapped boxes with — preventing any negative experiences.

To get more parents to join — and also to bring more boxes to offer users online — James has turned to Kickstart-er to spread the word.

"The idea of reusing and recycling is on the forefront of a lot of people's minds, and I think this is an easy way of facilitating it."

James

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BRIEF

Massive drug bust nets 60 pounds of Bronx-bound heroin

The New York Drug Enforcement Task Force scored a massive bust after four drug dealers were arrested in a hotel room with more than 60 pounds of heroin.

The four men were arrested on Monday in Secaucus, New Jersey, with duffel bags full of heroin and \$14,000 cash, the New York Daily News reported. The packages of heroin were labeled with marks resembling the letters "LL."

"It's one of the largest seizures of heroin in the state's history," NJ State Police Sgt. Jeff Flynn told the Daily News.

The heroin is thought to have originated in Mexico before passing through California en route to the Bronx, Newsday reported in a related article.

The four arrested were Oscar Rene Felix, 38, of Menifee, California, John Ulloa, 35, of the Bronx, Anthony Ross Koon, 54, of Pueblo, Colorado, and Alan Martin Alder-

man, 71, of Las Vegas, Nevada, the Daily News added.

Charges were still pending on Tuesday, but New Jersey state officials are expected to prosecute the foursome, according to Newsday.

A three-month investigation by the New Jersey State Police and the task force, which includes NYPD officers and New York State Police, led to Monday's bust, according to the Daily News.

JASON NUCKOLLS



The recovered drugs STATE POLICE



GETTY IMAGES

Group fished checks out of mail, cashed \$33K: Police

Over the past two months, the accused cashed more than \$33,500 in forged checks, according to authorities.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

A total of 11 alleged members and associates of a Queens gang are facing a slew of charges — including forgery and petit larceny — after "fishing" out checks from USPS mailboxes, removing payee names and amounts, and cashing them with new amounts and names, according to prosecutors.

The group of men and women are allegedly affiliated with the SNOW street gang and were variously charged Wednesday with charges of forgery, criminal possession of a forged instrument, criminal possession of stolen property, identity theft, possession of burglar's tools and tampering with private communications.

According to Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, 22-year-old Malik Franklin of Jamaica, Queens, was

seen fishing check from a United States Postal Service mailbox on Dec. 9, 2015.

According to prosecutors, other individuals who allegedly fished and washed checks were Terrell Bishop, 33, of Brooklyn, Queens residents Darryl Carrington, 26, and Alexis Warren, 19, who on Jan. 11 were seen by police in a 1998 Nissan Altima blocking a driveway at the intersection of 134th Avenue and 154th Street.

Inside the car, police allegedly saw two homemade devices — which are commonly used to fish mail out of post office mailboxes. The police then also recovered various checks from inside the car that had been stolen. Some of the checks had the payee's name and payment amount changed, while others were in the process of being changed.

Robert J. Augustin, 21, of Jamaica, Queens, was also charged with being a "washer" and a check casher.

If convicted, the men and women — who allegedly cashed more than \$33,500 in forged checks in the last two months alone — face between four to seven years in prison.

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Vincent Popalardo
RICHMOND COUNTY DA'S OFFICE

Vincent Popalardo, 20, has been indicted on charges that include robbery in the second degree as a hate crime, assault in the second degree as a hate crime and robbery

McMahon

office, on Nov. 30, 2015, at about 8:30 p.m., in front of a storefront at 1351 Forest Ave., Popalardo, with the help of two juveniles, whose cases are being handled in family

“This defendant targeted the victim

because of his disability, which shows that these actions were in fact hate crimes under the state's statute," said Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon in a statement. "All crimes are unacceptable, but those committed against an individual because of his or her disability are particularly despicable."

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA

A photograph of a building facade featuring a large, white, rectangular sign with the word "UBER" in black, sans-serif capital letters. Below the sign, two people are visible: a man in a dark jacket and a woman in a striped shirt and a white cap. The building has a dark, textured exterior. To the left, a red awning is partially visible.

Men stand in front of a Uber sign as drivers protest the company's recent fare cuts and go on strike in front of the car service's New York offices. GETTY IMAGES

Uber delivers on-demand puppies in NY

Many of the puppies were available for adoption.

they arrived, puppies were available for 15 minutes of playing, Uber said, adding that in most cases, the puppies were available for adoption.

The fee for 15 minutes of puppy fun was \$30, which supported the New

Uber, in collaboration with Animal Planet, delivered puppies for 15-minute play sessions yesterday in an effort to support various local animal charities.

Yesterday, Uber encouraged its users to request the puppies option within the app to schedule a play date with some four-legged friends. Once

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Japan military on alert over North Korea's planned rocket launch

North Korean notified U.N. agencies of its plan to launch what it called an "earth observation satellite" some time between Feb. 8 and 25.

Japan put its military on alert on Wednesday to shoot down any North Korean rocket that threatens it, while South Korea warned the North it would pay a "severe price" if it goes ahead with a satellite launch that South Korea considers a missile test.

North Korea has said it has a sovereign right to pursue a space program by launching rockets, although the United States

and other governments suspect that such launches are in reality tests of its missiles.

"We have defenses ready to deal with all threats, but in view of the announcement I have put the Self Defense Force's Aegis destroyers and our PAC-3 units on alert and issued an order to shoot down any ballistic missile threat," Japan's defense minister, Gen. Nakatani, told media briefing.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he would work with the United States and others to "strongly demand" that North Korea refrain from what he described as a planned missile launch.

Tension rose in East Asia last month after



Soldiers walk beside PAC-3 missile launchers as they are seen in position on the grounds of the defence ministry in Tokyo. GETTY IMAGES

North Korea's fourth nuclear test, this time of what it said was a hydrogen bomb.

A rocket launch coming so soon after the nuclear test would raise concern that North Korea plans to fit nuclear warheads on its missiles, giving it the capability to

launch a strike against South Korea, Japan and possibly targets as far away as the West Coast.

North Korea last launched a long-range rocket in December 2012, sending an object it described as a communications satellite into orbit.

REUTERS

Ex-drug executive Martin Shkreli has \$40M trading loss

Former pharmaceutical executive Martin Shkreli suffered a roughly \$40 million drop in the value of a trading account used to secure his bail following his arrest on securities fraud charges, a federal prosecutor said on Wednesday.

At a hearing in federal court in Brooklyn, Assistant U.S. Attorney Winston Paes said the account contained mostly shares of KaloBios Pharmaceuticals Inc., a drug company that Shkreli briefly ran.

KaloBios filed for bankruptcy in December, wiping out most of its equity value. That caused the value of Shkreli's E*Trade brokerage account to drop to \$4 million to \$5 million, from the \$45 million level when it had been frozen, the prosecutor said.

Paes told U.S. District Judge Kiyo Matsumoto



Martin Shkreli GETTY IMAGES

that Shkreli may need to post new assets to secure his \$5 million bond, which was issued following the 32-year-old's arrest in December.

Shkreli's new lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, responded, "There's nothing like an indictment to affect the price of shares even if the shares have significant value."

Shkreli's criminal case arose from his prior management of hedge fund MSMB Capital Management and Retrophin Inc., a biopharmaceutical company where he was chief executive before being fired in 2014. REUTERS

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Judge tosses Cosby's

After days of testimony, Cosby's attempt to get charges against him thrown out failed.



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The sexual assault case against Bill Cosby in suburban Philadelphia will move forward after a judge ruled Wednesday Cosby is not protected by a 2005 deal.

Judge Steven O'Neill said he found "no basis to grant the relief requested," in a five-minute announcement of his decision, and dismissed a defense habeas corpus motion on the basis of the alleged agreement.

O'Neill also dismissed Cosby's motion to have Montco DA Kevin Steele removed from the case for discussing it during his 2015 campaign for office.

Montgomery County

prosecutors defeated Cosby's team of top-shelf attorneys despite one of their own, former Montco DA Bruce Castor, testifying that his 2005 decision not to prosecute Cosby for drugging and touching Andrea Constand at his Cheltenham Township mansion was permanently binding.

Castor's credibility was assaulted by his successor, Kevin Steele, in closing arguments Wednesday afternoon.

"Credibility is out the window at this point," Steele argued — pointing out that Castor said at different times in media reports and letters around 2015 that prosecution against Cosby was not precluded, and that the Constand case could be revisited if new evidence surfaced.

"He says, 'Mr. [Brian] McMonagle, [Cosby's lawyer] 'I'm not on your team, I want them to win,' and then stands up and says, 'You can't prosecute because I am the sovereign



Bill Cosby, pool

and I made this edict," Steele scoffed.

"Sovereign edict ... it's not documented anywhere through this proceeding, even in their own documents. A secret agreement that permits a wealthy defendant to buy his way out of a criminal case isn't right," Steele argued. "It's not reasonable to not have this in writing. ... It's not reasonable for them to rely on this sup-

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posed unilateral transactional agreement."

But Cosby's lawyer, Christopher Tayback, argued that any agreement made by Castor was legally binding.

"What Mr. Castor did was lawful," Tayback argued. "The current DA's hands are bound. Mr. Castor made the deal he had made, he made the promise he had made."

Even if Castor's agree-

ment was only oral, it would still be binding, Tayback said.

"What we're talking about here is honoring a commitment."

Constand's civil lawyer, Dolores Troiani, and her former co-counsel, Bebe Kivitz, both testified earlier Wednesday that they weren't aware of any agreement immunizing Cosby — flying in the face of Castor's testimony that he made the decision to help their lawsuit, and with their knowledge, as he testified Tuesday.

"No lawyer for Cosby ever mentioned that there was any agreement, ever," Troiani asserted.

Troiani said Castor "traumatized" Constand and her family by declining to charge Cosby.

She said they only learned of his decision when he released it to the press and that she had to read it over the phone to Constand.

But New York lawyer John Schmitt, Cosby's general counsel, claimed that

Cosby would never have admitted to drugging and touching Constand in a deposition for her civil lawsuit without knowing he could never be charged for that crime.

"Can you tell me if this was so important, having an agreement, why there's no place in the stipulations, in the depositions, that refers to the Fifth? This agreement?" Steele asked, his voice rising to a shout.

"I can hear you. You don't have to yell at me," Schmitt replied huffily.

Schmitt said the agreement with Castor never needed to be memorialized or documented in any other way than a 2005 press release by Castor.

"I relied on the combination of the press release signed by Mr. Castor, and his oral assurances to Wally Phillips, who assured me it was sufficient," Schmitt testified. Tayback protested that under any circumstances, an oral promise from a prosecutor was legally binding.

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BRIEF

Florida governor declares health emergency in four counties over Zika

Florida Gov. Rick Scott declared a public health emergency in four counties with travel-related cases of the Zika virus, and ordered state officials to increase mosquito control efforts.

"Although Florida's current nine Zika cases were travel-related, we have to ensure Florida is prepared and stays ahead of the spread of the Zika virus in our

state," Scott said in a statement.

The counties are Miami-Dade in south Florida, Hillsborough in the Tampa Bay region, Lee County in southwest Florida and Santa Rosa County in the Florida Panhandle.

Scott directed the state's surgeon general to declare the public health emergency, and for state officials to pay attention to mosquito spraying in residential areas in those counties.

The mosquito-borne virus,

which is rapidly spreading in the Americas, has been linked to a spike in birth defects in thousands of babies in Brazil.

The World Health Organization declared a global health emergency on Feb. 1, citing a "strongly suspected" relationship between Zika infection in pregnancy and microcephaly, a condition marked by abnormally small head size that can cause permanent brain damage in newborns. **REUTERS**

Obama, in mosque visit, says an attack on Islam is an attack on all faiths

President Barack Obama visited a U.S. mosque Wednesday and declared that attacks on Islam were an attack on all faiths in a move to counter rhetoric from Donald Trump and other Republican presidential candidates that have alienated Muslims.

"We have to understand that an attack on one faith is an attack on all our faiths," Obama said at a mosque outside Baltimore. "When any religious group is targeted we all have a responsibility to speak up."

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump has called for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States after a California couple who killed 14 people last December were described by




President Barack Obama greets attendees in an overflow room after speaking at the Islamic Society of Baltimore, in Windsor Mill, Maryland, on Wednesday.

authorities as radicalized Muslims inspired by Islamic State militants.

Republicans vying to be the party's candidate for the Nov. 8 presidential election also have argued against Obama's plan to accept 10,000 refugees fleeing Syria's war, saying it raised national security risks.

The president, who is a Christian, said it was important to have more Muslim characters portrayed on television who were not related to national security themes, and he said engagement with Muslim-American communities must not be a cover for surveillance. **REUTERS**

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Yahoo to look at strategic alternatives, cut jobs as it pursues spin-off

Yahoo said it would consider "strategic alternatives" for its core Internet business and cut about 15 percent of its workforce, even as it continues with its plan to revamp the business and spin it off.

The announcement is the strongest sign yet that the board and CEO Marissa Mayer may be willing to sell the struggling Internet business — essentially websites, email and online search — under growing pressure from impatient shareholders.

In an interview with Reuters, Mayer said the company will entertain offers as they come but its first priority is the turnaround plan.

If it receives an offer this year, it was unlikely that the transaction would be completed



Marissa Mayer GETTY IMAGES

before the nine- to 12-month timeline projected for the spin-off, she said.

"We would obviously engage but I think the one thing we're trying to do is set our shareholders' expectations in terms of complexity," Mayer said.

The planned restructuring announced on Tuesday includes the

closure of offices in five locations, a paring down of products, shifting more resources to mobile search and selling some non-strategic assets such as real estate and patents.

Investors were not immediately impressed, sending Yahoo shares down 1.2 percent after hours. They have now fallen 36 percent over the past 12 months.

"We believe the strategic plan does not fully address the core issues which have destroyed shareholder value — poor capital allocation, bad strategic partnerships, out of control spending and a bloated workforce," said New York-based SpringOwl Asset Management, a shareholder which has called for changes at the company.

REUTERS



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Hilary Duff is officially single

Two years after announcing their split, Hilary Duff and Mike Comrie's divorce has been finalized. TMZ obtained legal documents outlining all the details. The pair will have joint custody over their 3-year-old son, Luca. Plus, Duff owes Comrie a \$2.4 million settlement. She'll be the one to keep their Beverly Hills mansion, while he gets two cars — a Mercedes and a Bentley. Back in January 2014, Duff's rep said this about the split: "They remain best friends and will continue to be in each other's lives. They are dedicated to loving and parenting their amazing son, and ask for privacy at this time." Since this means Duff is officially back on the market, we're totally



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

rooting for her to wind up with former "Lizzie McGuire" co-star Adam Lamberg. Lizzie and Gordo forever.

the word

JAMIE PRIMEAU
letters@metro.us

Selena Gomez is 'so done' with Bieber



Anyone still hoping for a Jelena reunion should give up those dreams ASAP. In the March issue of W magazine, Selena Gomez admits she's totally over ex Justin Bieber. Gomez says, "I'm so exhausted. I honestly am so done. I care about his health and well-being. But I can't do it anymore." The "Same Old Love" singer

shared what it's like having her love life in the spotlight. "At first I didn't care," Gomez tells the magazine. "To me, it was: I'm 18, I have a boyfriend, we look cute together, we like that. Then I got my heart broken and I cared. Because people had no idea what was going on." Given all the times the pair supposedly broke up and made up between 2011 and 2015, it was pretty confusing to follow along. Since Gomez, Bieber has been rumored to be dating Hailey Baldwin and hooking up with Kourtney Kardashian, although neither relationship was confirmed and both seemingly fizzled out. And Gomez was last reported to be cozying up with Niall Horan. Is it crazy we still think they're not officially done?

Wiz Khalifa says 'everything's cool' with Kanye West

The music world can stop bracing for another schism — the Kanye West-Wiz Khalifa feud is officially dunzo. West first called a truce when tweeting Tuesday: "Me and Wiz spoke yesterday. Great convo. All positive." Then, Khalifa cleared the air even more during a radio interview. The "See You Again" rapper told Power

105.1, "I think everybody was [surprised] but it's cool, everything's cool, we spoke, it's all good. ... I accept his apology." He also acknowledged the Kim Kardashian and Amber Rose selfie that got everyone talking. Khalifa said, "Her and Kim spoke and they're all good, too." Does this mean a double date is on the horizon? Fingers



crossed. When the talk show host commended how he handled the whole debacle, Khalifa joked, "I'm like the Bob Marley of this." Definitely a fitting analogy.

'Hamilton' is heading to the Grammys



Musical theater is typically underappreciated at the Grammys, but this year "Hamilton" is getting a turn in the spotlight. The cast of the crazy popular Broadway show will perform its opening number during the show Feb. 15. "We've never done any live performances in front of

a televised audience," "Hamilton" producer Jeffrey Seller tells USA Today. While it's a huge honor to perform at the Grammys, the cast is making the awards show come to them as to not get in the way of any of their scheduled performances—so don't worry, your lottery tickets are still safe.

Instead of flying out to Los Angeles to perform at the Staples Center, where the Grammys are taking place, the performance will be broadcast live from the Richard Rodgers Theater in New York. "Once they said, 'We'll come to you,' we knew it would work," Seller says. EMILY LAURENCE



Kanye West

Me and Wiz spoke yesterday. Great convo. All positive.



Ru Paul

3 Things: Be on time, be prepared and don't complain.



Mark Duplass

And on Day 20, suddenly, the beard stopped itching.

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Inside the Coen brothers

The legendary filmmakers talk Clooney, Commies and their new comedy, "Hail, Caesar!"



MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Joel and Ethan Coen don't remember the exact moment they became obsessed with Eddie Mannix. He's not a household name, but he's one of the most important figures

in the Golden Age of Hollywood: a "fixer" for MGM who would help cover up scandals, including ones involving sex, rape, even murder. The latest from the filmmakers, 61 and 58, respectively, is "Hail, Caesar!", set in 1950s Hollywood. Josh Brolin plays a softer, fictionalized version of Mannix: He still solves untold problems, including the kidnapping of a movie star (George Clooney), but he goes to confession, is nice to his wife and is even trying to quit smoking — all unlike the real deal.

What was the motivation for including a character named Eddie Mannix who isn't exactly Eddie Mannix?

Ethan Coen: Our idea for this, which is maybe 15 years old, was here's this guy who's a fixer for the studio. We

Our top 5 Coens

1. "Barton Fink" (1991)
2. "Blood Simple" (1984)
3. "Burn After Reading" (2008)
4. "Miller's Crossing" (1990)
5. "A Serious Man" (2009)

give him the name "Eddie Mannix" because it's just a great name. But the real person wasn't much like our character. He's the squarest hero ever. We thought we'd do a day in the life of his problems, and then we left it at that for many years. We just sat on the premise. We actually mentioned it to George Clooney way back when, and he kept announcing it to the press that this was his next movie, for some reason.

The film seems to be set in the early '50s, but there's a bit about Communist screenwriters that seems it might have been lifted in from the late '40s, when



Scarlett Johansson plays an Esther Williams-type opposite Josh Brolin's Hollywood "fixer" Eddie Mannix in the Coen brothers' "Hail, Caesar!" ALISON ROSA

the blacklist started. I could be wrong.

EC: You're kind of wrong. Communism was still an issue then.

Joel Coen: It is a little bit of a mixture. However, in 1950, 1951 the House Un-American Activities Committee was still in full-swing. McCarthy hadn't even happened yet. The blacklisting was still happening.

What made you want to include them as the people who've kidnapped Clooney's character?

JC: It amused us that they were writers, for one thing. It amused us they were Communists, for another. And it further amused us that the Clooney character would so readily embrace that ideology.

It's funny that he's so far removed from real life that when he's exposed to what they preach, he has to admit what they're saying is right on.

EC: That's the dangerous thing about Commies: They have a few good points.

Loop-de-loop

A fair amount of your movies, including "Inside Llewyn Davis," have a circular structure, where the characters try to change but can't. This has a touch of that.

EC: That's definitely true about "Inside Llewyn Davis." This one starts with a confession scene and we almost end with a confession scene. But the character has gotten somewhere. Unlike Llewyn Davis, he's figured something out.

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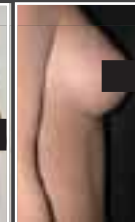
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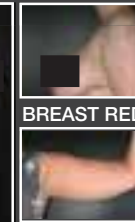
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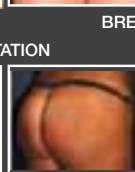
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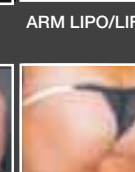
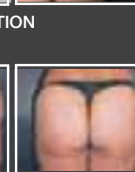
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Teresa Palmer and Ben Walker explain 'Netflix and chill'



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The stars of "The Choice" discuss an ideal Valentine's Day.

RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

Teresa Palmer and Ben Walker's characters in "The Choice," out this weekend, fall in love over banter, repeating the film's signature line — "You bother me" — to a frenzy of lust over the course of a decade. The Nicolas Sparks adaptation naturally leads to tragedy and some tough conversations (and choices), ones this writer will leave for our critic to decipher the depth of on a later page.

Palmer, 29, has plenty ahead of her, including the star-studded "Triple 9," while Walker, 33, is naturally headed back to Broadway as Patrick Bateman in Duncan Sheik's musical adaptation of "American Psycho." For now, the actors are enjoying a Tuesday morning attempting to cast themselves in their own season of "True Detective."

Did you guys read Nicholas Sparks' novel before the film?

TP: No, but I've seen all the movies. His formula works so well, and I think people love it is because they feel connected to the characters. They're not these perfect child's version of human beings. They have flaws. The way we get together in this movie is that, I'm in a relationship. There's in-

fidelity, it's messy. It gets dark at points, and that's life. I love that he doesn't try and sugarcoat it.

BW: Yeah. There's a reason they call it falling in love. It's about tripping and slapping your face on the ground.

Were you big "The Notebook" fans?

TP: "The Notebook" was everything for me. I had the stationary. I had the Noah and Allie posters on my wall. I still, like two years ago, was listening to the soundtrack on my way to auditions. Like for more emotional ones. I would get in the zone by listening to "The Notebook" music.

Do you have any big Valentine's Day plans?

BW: Very excited about seeing "The Choice" this Valentine's Day.

Are you really?

BW: No, I'd never see my own movie on Valentine's Day...

TP: I totally am. I'm going on Valentine's Day and I've already organized it with people.

BW: Well we're pretty much like a Netflix and chill kind of a couple. Best Valentine's Day: I cook, we do Netflix on the couch, pajamas, snuggle town.

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Walker and Palmer are hot and "bothered." LIONSGATE/DANA HAWLEY

But what are you watching on Netflix?

TP: I'm not just on Netflix, because I do like "The Affair" on Showtime. It's the best show ever. If you haven't seen it, you're going to binge watch the first two seasons.

BW: And "Luther," I'm telling you now. You have to start "Luther." It's like a British "True Detective."

You guys would be a

good "True Detective" pair.

BW: That's exactly what we should do.

TP: Oh my god. Totally.

BW: They're secretly in love. She's the detective and I'm like the guy who's following her around who's got a chip on his shoulder.

TP: See, he's a feminist

BW: He trusts his gut, but she knows the procedure.

TP: She does.

BW: He's shooting from the hip and she's like, "You're suspended. Give me that badge."

TP: Done. Let's pitch it right now. HBO and it's done.

BW: And we've both got mysterious tattoos.

TP: Yeah and we're actually not really humans.

It's a twist!

BW: Cut. Why aren't you writing this down?

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2 If another city had to make the playoffs, it may as well have been the best one outside of NYC. Denver Broncos fans go to **Butterfield 8** (5 E. 38th St.), the rare gastropub that deserves the name. On game

day, get unlimited wings and beer for \$45.

3 Sports lounge **Slate** (54 W. 21st St.) went the bigger-is-better route, setting up a 9-foot megatron alongside the 40 TVs spread across its two floors. Show your team pride by ordering one of their Broncos- or Panthers-inspired cocktails; chef Darryl Harmon also created themed dishes, the Denver lamb ribs and Carolina pulled pork sliders. Giants linebacker Jonathan Casillas will host, and a DJ will keep the energy up during commercial breaks.

4 If you're less into the game than the atmosphere, **Clinton Hall** (90 Washington St.) has oversized games like giant

Jenga, giant chess and a beer pong table on its patio. The beer hall's menu was just overhauled, creating an all-burger feast of 20 varieties, and they're bringing in beers from both teams' hometowns.

5 Chef Danny Bowien's quest to feed the city good food at better prices at **Mission Cantina** (172 Orchard St.) continues with a ridiculous Super Bowl deal: an all-night-long, all-you-can-eat buffet of wings, burritos, Chinese food, nachos and some new items, all for \$33.

6 Newly opened **Inwood Bar and Grill** (4892 Broadway) is not letting the cold stop it from a game day tradition: outdoor grilling. Chef Davo Lazala will be

turning out made-to-order ribs, burgers, hot dogs and corn on the cob on two barbecue grills beginning at 2 p.m. For the game, make your way inside to watch it on 30 TVs and a projector screen, with a Corona open bar from 5-6 p.m.

7 Low-key sports bar **Croxley's Ale House** (63 Grand St., Williamsburg) will be serving 20-cent boneless wings and 30-cent regular wings for the entire game. The TVs are high up and spaced all around the room, so reserve a seat you can actually use and still catch the action. Cover is \$10.

8 If you don't want to stand on tiptoes to see the screen and would rather not be in vomit range of overpartiers, **Nitehawk**



Slate PROVIDED

Cinema (136 Metropolitan Ave., Williamsburg) will be playing the game in a theater with seat-side service. The \$30 entry fee is actually a voucher for food (they've got their own house recipe hot wings) and drinks (including the teams' hometown beers).

9 Tables at the **40/40 Club** (6 W. 25th St.) are available for even-numbered parties at \$200 per person, which either comes with a set menu and bottle service or can be put toward a bar/food tab in the

same amount. The game will be screened on over 30 screens, including six 165-inch video walls.

10 Rent your own party space by reserving the Duplex Presidential Suite at **Gansevoort Meatpacking**, with 1,700 square feet of party space, three Jacuzzi tubs, a fireplace, large balcony and two bedrooms to spend the night. The private party for eight comes with platters and buckets of beer and wine. The package costs \$6,140.80.

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sideBAR PROVIDED

11 Cocooned inside glass walls for the colder months, **Monarch Rooftop & Indoor Lounge** (71 W. 35th St.) is bringing in the plasma TVs and opening its bar for an hour of unlimited drinking (beer, wine, vodka) before kickoff (6:30 p.m.) Hors d'oeuvres like beef sliders, meatballs and shrimp dumplings will circulate during the game. Cover is \$15.

12 The Upper East Side's bar scene has never been better. At **The Grayson** (16 First Ave.), watch the game on 45 TVs with specials on pitchers and mini kegs, plus the new Doughnurger: a beef patty, American cheese, maple-glazed bacon and a sunny-side egg on a glazed donut bun, topped with powdered sugar and chocolate sauce.

13 If you're a fan of the commercials, the South Street Seaport's **Ambrose Beer and Lobster** (18 Fulton St.) is playing them with sound along with the game. Packages start at \$39 for two with a bucket of six bottles (Bud Light or Bud Heavy) and 20 wings, or go a la carte for lobster rolls and craft brews.

14 Upper East Side beer hall **Treadwell Park** (1125 First

Ave.) has 12 TVs and party favors for every guest. From 4-11 p.m., you can get in for free or lock down a table, which comes with casks of Kelso beer and food like wings and sliders.

15 Make this the year you ditch watery pitchers for something worthy of your palate. Scotland's Grant distillery has created a new kind of liquor by blending together whisky and ale to produce **Grant's Ale Cask Finish Scotch Whisky** (\$19.99), with notes of maple syrup and a creamy malt finish. Drink it on the rocks or with ginger ale.

16 From 4:30-11:30 p.m. on game day, **Penthouse 808** (8-08 Queens Plaza South) will set up a projection screen as well as six TVs; deals include BOGO bottle service, half-price sushi, wing specials and \$30 beer buckets. And if you live in Long Island City, the bar is chartering a shuttle to get you home safely.

17 **Landmarc** at the Time Warner Center is being taken over by chef Mark Murphy's more casual restaurant Ditch Plains from 4-10 p.m. with cocktails like the Montauk Mule (Stoli vodka, rhubarb, ginger beer) and bar bites

including the Ditch Dog (topped with mac & cheese), and, of course, wings in Buffalo or sambal sauce. The game will be playing on two projector screens.

18 **Jake's Handcrafted** (\$59 Fifth Ave., Brooklyn) takes game day appetizers—Buffalo wings, lamb satay, etc.—and turns them into sausages. They're also delivering easily the best deal for the game: \$100 for a package that feeds 10-12 people with two pounds of sausage, a pound of Carolina-style pulled pork with "mop sauce," 2 pounds of Denver dip (like queso with duck chili and pickled jalapenos), plus potato salad, coleslaw, baguettes, housemade tortilla chips and all of their mustards.

19 **Bar Nine** (807 Ninth Ave., Hell's Kitchen) is usually a concert venue with a bar, but for the Super Bowl they're putting a large projection screen center stage (in addition to its 10 TVs) and specials like 50-cent wings, \$2 Bud Light drafts and \$5 Hennessy shots.

20 The Game Time Party Box from **Dos Caminos** will serve 10 people for \$175, and includes the restaurant's Prickly Pear Margarita Mix — just add tequila!



Duplex Presidential Suite, Gansevoort Meatpacking PROVIDED

The platter's stars are the Cholula hot wings, with other game-day staples like smoked chicken nachos, guac and chips, barbecue pork sliders and cookies.

21 Always packed for games but never rowdy, **Mason Jar** (43 E. 30th St.) has TVs big and small all over the two-story space. On Super Bowl Sunday, reserve a table for \$55 per person, which includes an entree (go for their housemade barbecue) and beer, well drink or wine.

22 It doesn't get more like being back in college on game day than **sideBAR** (118 E. 15th St.). Its viewing party starts at 5:30 p.m., with arguably the most interesting tie-in — the sponsor is Broadway's "Chicago," which will be raffling off tickets to the show that currently features former Tennessee Titan Eddie George in its cast. At the bar, Bud Light pitchers are \$14, or \$30 domestic/\$35 imported. Reservations encouraged.

23 **Haven Rooftop** (132 W. 47th St.) has transformed into a ski chalet for the winter,

so cozy up for a \$30 cover that includes two drinks and food specials, or get open bar for the whole game for \$100 and passed appetizers during the first half.

24 For sheer number of screens, you can't beat the 116 TVs at **200 Fifth** (200 Fifth Ave., Park Slope). For the Super Bowl, there will be a special NFL-themed menu.

25 New East Village spot **David's Cafe** (110 St. Mark's Place) does American food the French way, and for the Super Bowl they're setting aside our countries' differences about what exactly "football" means and hauling out the big screen and specials like the Buffalo Chicken Poutine, slathered in mozzarella chicken gravy.

26 Mexican cantina **Campeon** (9 E. 16th Street) is swapping its margaritas for 75-ounce beer towers during the game, which will be on all 50 80-inch TVs.

27 **Bowery Meat Company** (9 E. First St., East Village)

For the rest
of the list, visit
metro.us

is setting aside its usual upscale steakhouse vibe and putting up TVs throughout the restaurant. The special game-day menu includes Buffalo Lollipops, beer-braised bratwurst, prime rib tacos and buckets of Porkslap, Pabst and Brooklyn Lager.

28 The construction in Times Square is at an all-time tolerable level, so get to **Virgil's Real Barbecue** (152 W. 44th St.) for \$4 pints and \$12 pitchers of Bud Light, and half-price appetizers.

29 **Dewey's Pub** (135 W. 30th St., Herald Square) won't let your mouth get bored while you watch the game, with 24 beers on tap and specials like bourbon barbecue wings and short rib chili. If you want to go all in, it's \$40 for a limited beer/wine open bar and all the chicken wings you can put away.

30 **Village Pour House** (64 Third Ave., East Village) is always packed on game day. This Sunday, \$100 will score you access to a premium open bar from kickoff until the clock runs down.

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Where you have your Valentine's Day dinner is just as important as what you're eating. These restaurants will set the tone for the rest of your romantic night, but you better make a reservation now.

Musket Room
265 Elizabeth St., Nolita

Soft lighting, dark woods and no cramped tables, so your sweet nothings won't be overheard. Dial up the romance with Michelin-starred chef Matt Lambert's six-course aphrodisiac-themed menu (\$150 per person) that begins with truffled mushroom soup, then moves on to Ora King salmon with satsuma and a kiss of vanilla. Mains are a choice of cod or beef, then to rev things up toward the end of the meal, there's a ginger and banana course.

Minton's
206 W. 118th St., Harlem

Harlem's jazz supper club is turning Valentine's Day into Valentine's Weekend with a special menu and unique performances Feb. 12-14. First up is Queen Esther, who brings the Deep South to NYC with classic blues and "country jazz." On Saturday, Harlem native and longtime stage performer Alyson Williams will share soul ballads and jazz standards; and saxophonist/flautist T.K. Blue will warm up the special night with Afro-Caribbean jazz. On chef Joseph Johnson's



Strip House FACEBOOK

four-course prix fixe (\$175 per person) is mackerel crudo, venison in harissa with sweet apple chutney and strip steak with rutabaga smash. Share a his & hers flask for two (\$25) filled with one of three special cocktails.

Botequim
132 Fourth Ave., Union Square

Just below 14th Street (literally) is a restaurant that is as lively and sexy as the streets of Brazil. Take your Valentine to a tropical paradise with a prix fixe (\$75 per person) that starts with a selection of pastelinhos (a flaky pastry pocket), then moves onto three courses with options like wild striped bass and prawns in a tomato-coconut broth and suckling pig. There's a choice of desserts as well, but we like the

brigadeiros. The special menu will be served Feb. 13 and 14 beginning at 5 p.m.

Strip House
13 E. 12th St., 15 W. 44th St.

Though the name of this steakhouse may be a little on the nose, if you're more bordello than boudoir then be sure to reserve your own red banquette amid the framed burlesque photos that cover the walls. For Valentine's Day, they're serving a risqué and decadent 50 Shaves of Truffle menu (\$200 per person). Over seven courses, chef Michael Vignola will seduce your palate with dishes like truffled chestnut veloute, truffle-crusted scallops, aged Long Island duck with seared foie gras in truffle madeira jus and black truffle cheesecake

with almond crumble. The menu will be served Feb. 12-14, 5-11 p.m.

Paulie Gee's
60 Greenpoint Ave., Brooklyn

The food may be casual, but the ambiance at Paulie Gee's is all Italian wine barn, which is not a thing but should be, with soaring ceilings, lots of candlelight and exposed brick walls. For the dad joke lovers of the world, the Neapolitan-style pizzas are all amusingly named, like the Ricotta Be Kiddin' Me (mozzarella, Canadian bacon, sweet Italian fennel sausage and basil finished with dollops of ricotta) and the special that people wanted so much it became a regular, Cherry Jones (mozzarella, Gorgonzola, dried Bing cherries, prosciutto, orange blossom honey). Vegans are in for a treat — there's a special pizza and dessert menu just for you.

Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse
447 Lexington Ave., Midtown

The cosmopolitan atmosphere and gorgeous desserts make Davio's more than a straight-up steakhouse. For Valentine's Day, they're showing their softer side with a pink-themed prix fixe (\$69 per person) that includes a course of red, heart-shaped ravioli with goat cheese in butter herb sauce. The meal starts off with tuna and black bass carpaccio, then a pan-seared halibut in bay scallop sauce and caviar — no extra charge for the good stuff here — and ends on a light note of pavlova with strawberries and chocolate sorbet. The menu is available Feb. 12-14.



Minton's EVAN SUNG



Davio's Red Heart Ravioli PROVIDED



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Listings



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FILM

'Heat & Vice: The Films of Michael Mann'

Feb. 5-16
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave.
BAM.org

Over four decades and 11 films, filmmaker Michael Mann has done his job, whether it nets rewards or not. That is to say, he's had his bombs, in addition to bona fide hits ("The Last of the Mohicans," "Heat," "Collateral," plus the show "Miami Vice"). BAM's complete retro, "Heat & Vice: The Films of Michael Mann," explores how his brooding, synth-heavy, tough-guy vibes seeped into the culture anyway. All the while Mann has stayed the course, daring audiences to keep up or be left out. **MATT PRIGGE**

DRINKS

Winter Wine Fest

Feb. 6, 3-6 and 8-11 p.m.
PlayStation Theater
1515 Broadway
\$75+, NewYorkWineEvents.com
Step inside an indoor vineyard for an afternoon or evening session to sample over 250 vintages from around the world while enjoying live jazz piano by two-time Soul Train Music Award winner Alex Bugnon.

SEASONAL

Winter Carnival

Feb. 5-6, noon-10 p.m.
Bryant Park
Free, Winterville.org
We might be experiencing another uncannily warm week of winter, but you can still embrace the season at the second annual Winter Carnival. The event features ice skating by Olympic greats, plus curling lessons, silent disco, ice golf, ping-pong and a glamorous Ice Ball on Friday at 7.

ARTS

TinyRhino
V-Day Soiree

Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St.
\$25, TinyRhinoPlays.com

TinyRhino, the world's first theatrical drinking game, has made its home in Park Slope since it debuted in 2010. But at long last, the party comes to Manhattan. The Valentine's Day Soiree will feature six 10-minute plays about modern romance, each containing five special words or gestures. When the cue appears, the audience drinks! The performance is preceded by live music from the Good Morning Nags.

DANCE

Shaping Sound

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Beacon Theatre, 2124 Broadway
\$50-\$90, Shapingsoundco.com
TV's hottest dancers come to NYC for a one-night-only performance by contemporary dance company Shaping Sound (featured on the reality show "All the Right Moves"). Monday's performance, the final stop on a national tour, features 2014's "So You Think You Can Dance" winner Ricky Ubeda, along with familiar faces from shows like "The X-Factor," "America's Got Talent," "Bunheads" and "Glee."

MUSIC

The Bacon Brothers

Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Schimmel Center, 3 Spruce St.
\$39-\$65, Schimmelcenter.org
Kevin Bacon's musical chops go far beyond "Footloose." He and his brother, Michael, an Emmy-winning composer, formed the Bacon Brothers in 1995, releasing seven albums. This show will be a sneak preview of Michael's new "Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra."

'Alan Cumming
Sings Sappy Songs
with Friends'

Feb. 8, 8 p.m.
Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Ave.
\$45-\$135, Carnegiehall.org
Alan Cumming is launching his new album, "Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs," onstage with friends like Kristin Chenoweth and Darren Criss, plus special appearances by Ricki Lake and the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. The song list is a mix of pop covers, musical theater hits and music inspired by his world travel.

The Beach Boys

Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
Kings Theatre, 1027 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn
\$35.50+, Kingstheatre.com
"Wouldn't It Be Nice" if you could escape the winter blues with a trip to "Kokomo" with some of your favorite "California Girls"?

BEAUTY

Capture your golden hour with La Prairie

Feb. 4, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saks Fifth Avenue, 611 Fifth Ave.
Free, Saksfifthavenue.com
We all know about the "golden hour" at sunrise and sunset when the light is most flattering. Live in that moment with a gold-hued portrait by Bill Donovan, the artist-in-residence for La Prairie, which is releasing its new Makeup house La Prairie is celebrating its new Cellular Radiance Perfecting Fluide Pure Gold serum. Schedule your appointment in advance to receive a complimentary gold compact.

ON SALE SOON

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Ceremony

On sale Feb. 5, 9 a.m.
Barclays Center, 620 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn
\$55-\$505, Barclayscenter.com
Cheap Trick, Chicago, Deep Purple, N.W.A. and Steve Miller are officially joining the house that music built this year, and the induction ceremony will go down right here in Brooklyn on April 8. Performers will include the Black Keys, Rob Thomas, Kendrick Lamar, plus other special guests.

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rooms at luxe hotels like The Gritti Palace and the Baglioni Hotel Luna are available for a fraction of their high-season rates, while landmarks like St. Mark's Basilica sit blissfully empty. Sure, Venice is enchanting any time of year — but go now, while you can have it all to yourself.

Venice Carnival

From Jan.23 through Feb. 9, La Serenissima sloughs off its winter gloom and comes alive for Carni-

val, an annual open-air festival that fills the city with music, dancing and masked partygoers. There are events every day — from colorful boat parades on the banks of Cannaregio to masquerade balls. Also not to be missed: the King's Banquet, a nightly feast held at Venice's magnificent historic shipyard, Arsenale (tickets must be booked in advance).

Campo San Polo Ice Rink

Every winter, from December until the end of Carnival, Venice's largest square, Campo San Polo, is turned into a gigantic ice-skating rink. The ovoid rink, which can accommodate up to 200 skaters, is flanked by market stalls selling food, mulled wine, and local arts and crafts. A day pass to the rink is quite reasonable for Venice: €10 for adults and €8 for children, with rental skates

included. Pro tip: Visit after dark to avoid the crowds and skate amid the glittering city lights.

Caffè Florian

Being Italy's oldest coffee house, opened in 1720, the iconic Caffè Florian is worth visiting any time of year. But during the chilly, dark days of winter, its plush red velvet banquettes and warm ambiance are especially enticing. What you're here for is the hot chocolate: It's thick, creamy and ganache-like, served in a porcelain cup with biscotti for dipping.

St. Mark's Basilica

There's no denying the magnificence of St. Mark's Basilica, Italy's most famous Byzantine cathedral, even when it's packed with tourists. But in the off-season, when it's deserted? Downright magical. You don't have to line up for hours for

a peek at its glittering cupolas and priceless relics, or fight through a suffocating crush of tourists to admire the lavish, gem-studded Pala d'Oro high altar.

Gondola rides

Winter is actually the most romantic time to hop on board a gondola. From December through February, the canals are hauntingly quiet, shrouded in mist and illumi-

nated by soft, hazy winter light. Steer clear of the congested Grand Canal, which is best seen by the cheaper traghetto ferries anyway, and head for the gondola stops along the small, narrow side canals for a more authentic experience. Bonus: Being low season, it's much easier to broker a lower price with your gondolier (you can likely knock €5 to €10 off the steep €80 average for a 30-minute ride). **KRISANNE FORDHAM**



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Peyton Manning could very well wave goodbye to the NFL immediately after Sunday's Super Bowl. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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Super Bowl prop quick Gaga, and

We break down the best prop bets leading up to this year's event.



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Money will be bet on the Super Bowl. A lot of it.

By any measure it's one of the most action-packed sports betting days on the calendar and, luckily, you can bet on a lot more than the winner and the loser this weekend.

Whether it's in a Vegas casino or with a buddy over a case of beer, we've singled out some of the most interesting, outrageous and lucrative prop bets you can make on Super Bowl 50.

National anthem length: 2:20

We are taking the under. The tendency is usually to take the over with the assumption that the anthemist — in this case Lady Gaga — will milk it and take her time. But the adrenaline factor is a palpable one and forces a singer to speed up a bit. The average in recent years was 1:57.

Our pick: Under

Peyton Manning passing yards: 235.5

Peyton Manning has not been posting the inflated numbers he did earlier in his career, and the over-under is pretty spot on based on his performance this season. However, we expect the Panthers to have the lead in this one, which would create a lot more passing for Denver in this one. He'll eclipse the over.

Our pick: Over

Von Miller total sacks: .5

There has been quite some hype about Miller rushing Cam Newton during the ramp-up to the Super Bowl. But we think Miller (who had 11 sacks during the regular season) and the Broncos' NFL-leading defense will find a way to get its hands on Newton, agility and all. We'll go the over here, but just barely.

Our pick: Over

Steph Curry's outfit

There are a lot of bets unrelated to the outcome of the game and this is one of our favorites. North Carolina native and Panthers fan Stephen Curry will be at the game and in full Carolina garb. What will he be wearing? Personalized Carolina Steph Curry jersey: even-money; Cam



Expect Lady Gaga to get her national anthem in in under two minutes and 20 seconds.

bets: Bet on a no earthquake



Newton jersey: +300; any other Carolina jersey: +500; no jersey: +200.
Our pick: Newton jersey — he's the MVP front-runner after all.

Will there be an earthquake during the game?

This one pays 1,000-1. San Francisco is on the San Andreas Fault. The payout would be astronomical for a win, but we aren't rooting for a natural disaster during the Super Bowl.
Our pick: Please, God, no.

Will Manning announce his retirement in the post-game press conference?

We are guessing that he won't. While we think he'll probably need to give it some thought before announcing publicly. If he wins, the likelihood is higher he will call it quits.
Our pick: No (-1000)

Who wins?

The Panthers are six-point favorites and the numbers suggest they are a force to be reckoned with both offensively and defensively. The combination of Carolina's potent run game with the momentum that is Newton at QB will be just enough to best the Broncos' top-notch defense. And though Manning should keep it interesting early, the Broncos defense won't have enough firepower to cover the spread. We're taking the Panthers with the points.
Our pick: Panthers, -6

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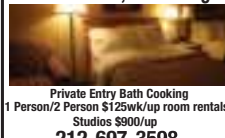
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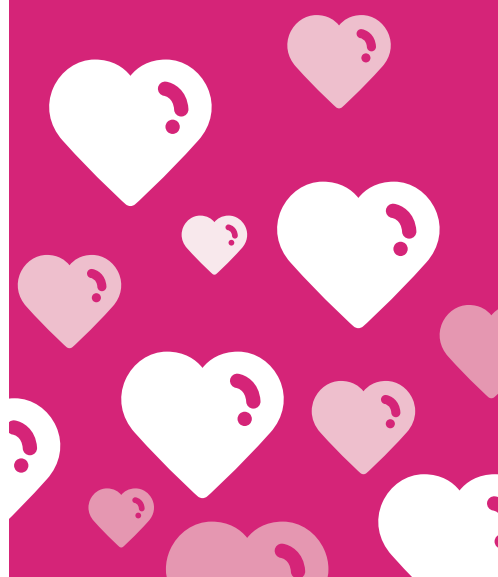
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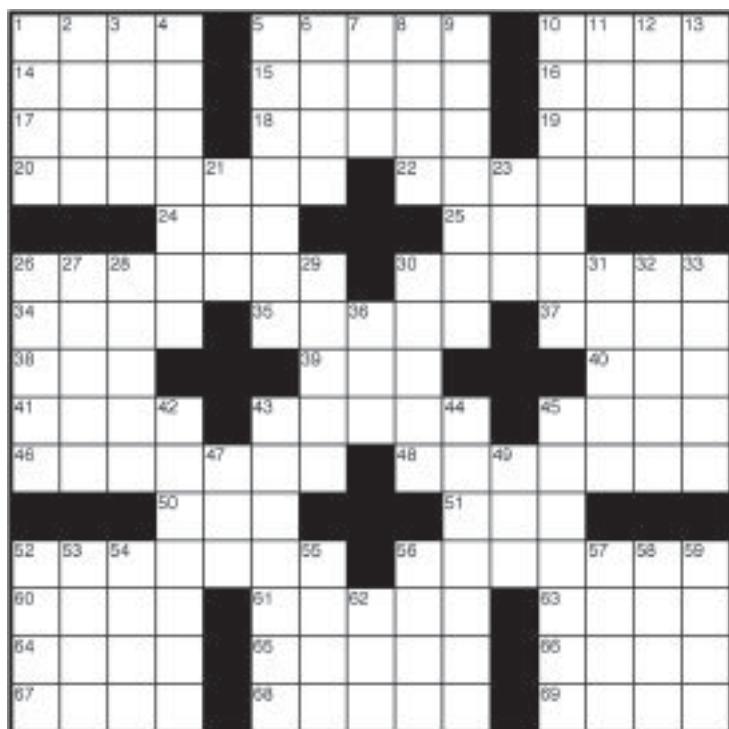
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- 10 Things to chew on
- 14 Blouse part
- 15 Stucco backing
- 16 Out loud
- 17 Tied
- 18 Aramis' colleague
- 19 Labyrinth
- 20 Sandy expands
- 22 Not for hermits
- 24 -- Dawn Chong
- 25 Knicks' org.
- 26 Tortilla snacks
- 30 Eaves hangers
- 34 Knighted Guinness
- 35 Good for something
- 37 Ride seeker's shout
- 38 Victrola maker
- 39 Frazier foe
- 40 Put the kibosh on
- 41 Geological periods
- 43 Slammin' Sammy --
- 45 Dept. store inventory
- 46 Struts
- 48 Short versions
- 50 German physicist
- 51 -- vous plait
- 52 Wheel covers
- 56 Besets
- 60 Viking name
- 61 Furniture buy

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- 63 Roulette color
- 64 Busy loafing
- 65 Winter constellation
- 66 Rush of air
- 67 Wished undone
- 68 "Luncheon on the Grass" painter
- 69 This, in Tijuana

Down

- 1 Applied henna
- 2 Ramble around
- 3 Mini-guitars
- 4 Brand X
- 5 Level off

- 6 Equine fodder
- 7 Highest degree
- 8 Karate blow
- 9 Ultimate nature
- 10 Purse item
- 11 Europe-Asia range
- 12 Mental fog
- 13 Luge
- 21 Chinese zodiac animal
- 23 Tea-house attire
- 26 Passengers
- 27 Bauxite giant
- 28 Stone-washed garment
- 29 Laurel and Getz
- 30 Homer opus
- 31 Docks
- 32 Are around
- 33 Boxcars, in dice
- 36 Notre Dame sight
- 42 Flabbergasted
- 43 Sneeze or cough
- 44 Refusal to conform
- 45 Potpourri
- 47 Gotcha!
- 49 KP workers
- 52 Next in line
- 53 Karachi language
- 54 Liver secretion
- 55 Paretsky or Teasdale
- 56 Sunblock additive
- 57 Debt memos
- 58 Shopper's aid
- 59 Baja Ms.
- 62 Hopper

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easy

5		3	8				6
	9				5		3
			9	7	3	5	
3						1	
	8		4	3	9		6
		2					8
		9	1	6	2		
	5		3				8
4					8	2	7

hard

4				3			
		2	9			3	5
			2	7			9
	4	8			3		6
9		7				3	4
	6		4			8	1
6				8	2		
8	3				9	2	
				4			1

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Aries Look at the possibilities and make things happen. Don't let what others do or say prevent you from following your dream. Believe in your abilities and show everyone what you can do.



Taurus If you try something new, you will improve your life. Romance is on the rise, and making plans with someone special will bring positive results.



Gemini Taking on a challenge will lead to healthier choices and improve your physical well-being. Your accomplishment will be noticed, and you will be encouraged to reach your goal.



Cancer Show interest in what other people are doing. Your interest and input will bring you closer together and lead to a collaboration that could become quite profitable.



Leo Strive to bring about change and add a little excitement to your life. Your ability to get things done with finesse and bravado will be entertaining and will draw influential attention.



Virgo Tread carefully when dealing with sensitive matters. Not everyone will like your disciplined ways. Be conscientious of others, but do not jeopardize your position.



Libra Listen to complaints and offer solutions. Taking matters into your own hands will empower you to move in a direction that suits your abilities.



Scorpio Discuss your ideas with someone who always gives you a unique point of view. You may not completely agree, but something will tweak your imagination and help you move forward.



Sagittarius Too much spending, indulging and overreacting will lead to trouble. You are best off staying at home and avoiding any situation that will put you in a vulnerable position.



Capricorn Share your findings with others. By taking the lead, you will control the outcome and impress someone you love. Romance is encouraged.



Aquarius Look for a practical way to help others. You have more to offer than you realize. A vocational change will stabilize your personal life and boost your confidence.



Pisces Take one step at a time. Don't feel pressured by someone who is impatient. Being practical will avert loss and lessen risk. Go at your own speed. **EUGENIA LAST**

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